

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 00438 140622Z

17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 OMB-01 /083 W

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R 140524Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2634

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 0438

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PORG OAU ET

SUBJECT: VENUE OF OAU MEETINGS

REF: (A) ADDIS 0298 (NOTAL); (B) ADDIS 114 (NOTAL)

1. OAU ASSISTANT SEC GEN FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, ARTHUR OSANYA-NYYNEQUE, TOLD EMBOFF ON JANUARY 10 THAT PER REFTEL THE FEBRUARY OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' MEETING (CM) WILL BE HELD IN ADDIS "IN PRINCIPLE." HOWEVER, HE SAID, FOR OVER A MONTH OAU ADMINISTRATIVE SEC GEN ETEKI HAS BEEN SEEKING AN ALTERNATIVE SITE FOR THE CM. ETEKI HAS SENT MESSAGES TO KENYA (VIA OSANYA-NYYNEQUE, WHO IS KENYAN) AND GHANA (VIA GHANAIAN AMBASSADOR
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 00438 140622Z

TURKSON) TO REQUEST AN OFFER TO HOST THE MEETING. ACCORDING TO

OSANYA-NYYNEQUE, GHANA CONSIDERED THE IDEA FOR SOME TIME AND IS NOW ACTIVELY LOBBYING TO HOST THE CM.

2. OSANYA-NYYNEQUE SAID THAT THE SITUATION HAD BECOME VERY COMPLICATED AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE CM WOULD BE HELD IN ADDIS (CF REF A). THE ANNOUNCEMENT, HE SAID, HAD BEEN MADE BY THE EPMG, NOT THE OAU SECRETARIAT. IT STEMMED FROM A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN SEC GEN ETEKI AND CAMEROON AMBASSADOR DICKO (DIPLOMATIC CORPS DEAN) WITH PMAC CHAIRMAN BG TEFERI BENTI AND "DIRG" MEMBERS OVER EPMG VIOLATIONS OF OAU TERRITORIAL IMMUNITY. THE CONFRONTATION OCCURRED AFTER ETHIOPIAN POLICE TRIED TO ENTER THE SECRETARIAT (FOR THE THIRD TIME) TO ARREST AN ETHIOPIAN OAU EMPLOYEE. ETEKI REPORTEDLY TOLD HIS EPMG INTERLOCUTORS THAT THE FEBRUARY CM COULD NOT BE HELD IN ADDIS UNLESS THE EPMG BEGAN RESPECTING THE SECRETARIAT'S IMMUNITIES AND THE RIGHTS OF ALL DIPLOMATS IN ADDIS. TEFERI BENTI PROMISED THAT THIS WOULD BE DONE (CF. REFTELS). SHORTLY THEREAFTER, WITHOUT THE OAU'S KNOWLEDGE OR CONSENT, THE EPMG MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT CONTAINED REF A. COMMENT: TO CHANGE THE CM'S VENUE AT THIS LATE DATE WOULD BE ADMINISTRATIVELY AWKWARD AND WOULD INFURIATE THE EPMG. APPARENTLY, HOWEVER, THE CM SITE IS STILL UNCERTAIN AND THE EPMG'S UNILATERAL ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IT WOULD BE HELD IN ADDIS HAS ANGERED RATHER THAN CALMED SOME OAU MEMBERS. NEVERTHELESS, EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT CM LIKELY TO BE HELD IN ADDIS.

3. OSANYA-NYYNEQUE ALSO STATED THAT KAMPALA HAS DEFINITELY BEEN CHOSEN FOR THE JUNE 1975 OAU SUMMIT. HE SMILED WANLY AND SAID "THIS PROBABLY MEANS THAT IDI AMIN WILL BE OUR CHAIRMAN." WYMAN

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